

PUBLIC SUMMARY OF THE PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT 325 SOUTH WHITING STREET, CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



Cultural Resources, Inc.
710 Littlepage Street, Suite C
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 370-1973

In October 2004, Cultural Resources, Inc. (CRI) conducted a Phase I archaeological identification survey of approximately 2 acres at 325 South Whiting Street in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. The project area is bounded on northeast by South Whiting Street, on the northwest by a parking lot for an apartment complex, and on the south by a parking lot for commercial properties, which includes a 7-11 convenience store and an automobile repair facility.

The archaeological investigations of the 2 acres within the property employed the systematic excavation of 52 shovel tests at 25-foot intervals and a walkover examination. None of the shovel tests contained artifacts and no cultural features were identified. No archaeological sites or architectural resources were identified during the course of the survey. The survey did reveal severely disturbed soils throughout much of the project area, the likely result of development of the adjacent lots.

Archaeologists focused specific attention to an area on the eastern edge of the property, where a computer-generated map created in the 1980s depicts a square structure labeled as "Ruins." No evidence of structural remains were observed on the exposed ground surface. In addition, shovel testing in this area revealed severely disturbed soils. The area where the ruins would have been located has been landscaped, likely done after the terrain had been heavily altered.



Archaeological Field Technician Tracey McDonald
Excavates a Shovel Test Within the Projected Location of the
"Ruins" Depicted on a Map from the 1980s.

The shovel testing revealed severely disturbed soils over 87 percent of the project area (45 of 52 shovel tests). Shovel testing also identified wetlands-type soils in four percent of the project area (two of 52 shovel tests). The wetland areas were located along a drainage within the property. The development immediately surrounding the project area has diverted much of the rainwater runoff, drying up the drainage within the project area. Intact soil profiles were found in only nine percent of the study area (five of 52 shovel tests).

Due to the absence of cultural materials and the disturbed nature of the project area, ***CRI recommends that no further work is required within the 2-acre lot at 325 South Whiting Street in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.***